

CITY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
COUNCIL POLICY

CURRENT

SUBJECT: ANNUAL APPROPRIATION FOR LIBRARY OPERATION AND
MAINTENANCE
POLICY NO.: 100-19
EFFECTIVE DATE: November 14, 2000

BACKGROUND:

Friends of the San Diego Public Library, concerned with the level of funding annually appropriated for the City's public libraries, circulated a proposed initiative petition that would have amended the City Charter to require the City Council to annually appropriate a set level of funding for library operation, maintenance and supplies. The petition was based on the Friends' observation, among other things, that the City's library funding has ranged for the past several years between 2-1/2 to 4% of the general fund, remaining around 4% for the four years preceding the circulation of the petition. The Friends further cited the City's 1998 Zero-Based Management Review report, which found that "the financial support for libraries can best be described as one of 'chronic underfunding,'" and that this underfunding would continue "unless drastic political and citizens involvement occurs and regional support is generated."

Based on these findings, the Friends requested the City Council to place its initiative measure on the November, 2000, ballot. The City Council declined to place it on the ballot, but agreed to consider an ordinance that would reflect the need for adequate library operations and maintenance funding. This policy, along with new Municipal Code section 22.0228, is intended to address the need for adequate library funding while retaining the necessary discretion in the City Council to annually appropriate the general fund for all of the City's needs. Pursuant to City Council direction, this policy is also intended to emphasize the importance of funding for basic neighborhood amenities.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to articulate the sense of the City Council that library operations, maintenance and supplies must receive sufficient funding to sustain a viable public library system within the City of San Diego. Specifically, this policy expresses the support of the City Council for a proposal by the City Manager that will include sufficient funds to fulfill the purposes of San Diego Municipal Code section 22.0228, and this policy.

POLICY:

The City Council recognizes the need for adequate funding for the operation, maintenance and supply of the City's public libraries, as reflected in section 22.0228 of the San Diego Municipal Code which requires the City Manager's annual budget proposal to include funding for library operations, maintenance and supplies in an amount equal to up to 6% of the general fund. The City Council shall endeavor to retain the proposed level of funding in the adoption of the final budget ordinance each fiscal year.

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The City Council further declares that basic neighborhood amenities, including active use parks and recreation centers, are important priorities and should be adequately funded to serve the needs of their communities. The City Manager shall ensure this priority for these parks and recreation facilities is reflected in the annual budget proposed to the City Council each fiscal year.

It is the intent of the City Council that there be no new taxes proposed or imposed for the purpose of meeting this policy goal.

The adoption of this policy is not intended to be and shall not constitute an irrevocable commitment by the City Council to allocate monies for this purpose. Such a commitment may only be made, in the Council's discretion, at the time the annual budget ordinances are adopted, or as they may be amended from time to time.

HISTORY:

Adopted by Resolution R-294126 11/14/2000